

FIRST ISSUE

JANUARY 1948

The
**Berkshire
Organist**

EDITOR A.E. RIVERS
17 ST. BARTHOLOMEWS RD.
READING

INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF
ORGANISTS - BERKSHIRE BRANCH

Secretary
A.H. LUSTY A.R.C.O. LT.-CL.
60 PELL ST. READING

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - W.H. ROWE A.R.C.O., Organist: St Andrew's, Coversham.

In all our activities we are constantly striving to achieve a wider appreciation and a fuller understanding of the tasks which confront us as Church musicians. I believe that through mutual association we are enabled to enlarge our experience, to improve our standards of judgement and to expand our vision. It is a pleasure and a privilege to command the first issue of our own magazine, in the hope that it will forge yet another link in the chain which binds organists of all denominations in the unity of a common purpose and aim: the attainment of still better Church music. I trust that within these pages will be found both enjoyment and wisdom, and that the appearance of the 'Berkshire Organist' will result in increased enthusiasm among all our members!

EDITORIAL.

This edition of "The Berkshire Organist" has been produced in an attempt to maintain closer contact with our members, especially those who, owing to distance and other circumstances, are unable to take an active part in the work of the Association. It is also hoped that an increase of interest may be stimulated in other members who seldom attend our meetings.

The summaries of talks and programmes of recitals etc., will, we trust be of interest to those who would like to have them in a permanent form, and also to those who have been unable to attend a particular meeting.

This issue is being distributed free of charge to all members, and those who appreciate the effort which is being made are invited to send an order for the next number, together with 6d. to cover the cost of production, either to the Editor or the Secretary.

Criticism and suggestions for future inclusion will also be very welcome.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. F. G. Spriggs for the cover design, also to Mr. J. Eric Few for undertaking the typing and duplicating of this number, and to all those who have supplied material for inclusion.

APPOINTMENTS BUREAU.

It is hoped to recommence the above service to our members which, unfortunately, lapsed during the War. All members who are seeking a post or a change of appointment are asked to send full particulars to the Secretary of the Bureau

Mr. J. H. Fisher, L.T.C.L.,
37, Donnington Road,
Reading.

Members are also requested to make this service known to the Clergy and also the Officials of their Churches.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

What does the Benevolent Fund of the Incorporated Association of Organists do? The answer to this question would more than fill the small space that has been allotted in this magazine. To put it briefly - the fund is available for any present or past member of any affiliated association, and even includes dependents, any of whom may be necessitous (to use the word included in the Trust Deeds). Most of us are in the happy position to provide for such emergencies and are inclined to forget that some, through no fault of their own, find themselves unable to do so. The fund being voluntary, depends almost entirely on the contribution of members. Berkshire has a good record of generous help, but if every member contributed, we could exceed any of the existing records.

This may be done by collections at Branch meetings, recitals, or a yearly subscription of £1. 1. 0d.

In fact - I shall be pleased to receive any sum, however large or small at my address :- 13, Hamilton Road, Reading.

ARNOLD WARREN.
(Hon. Steward, Berkshire Branch.)

TALK by MR. PETER GOODMAN, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O. (CHM), A.R.C.M.
Organist of GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL at the Half-Day Conference
held on April 26th. 1947.

Mr. Goodman began by saying that he would put his remarks under the heading of two propositions in order to provoke discussion. The first of these was: "THAT THIS HOUSE CONSIDERS THAT A CONGREGATION IS UNABLE TO SING A PSALM".

First of all the position of Music in the Church. People come to any Church primarily to worship. Music is of secondary importance. Before the days of Queen Elizabeth the congregation had no part in the singing, but in 1559, the Queen allowed a Hymn (or Metrical Psalm) to be sung before & after the Service. Many Genevan tunes were introduced at this time by those who had fled to the Continent during the Marian persecutions and were now returning to England. The Metrical Psalm has been retained in Scotland as no doubt you are all aware. Psalm singing is, on the whole, changing for the better, although the Psalms are still too often the one undevotional and unmusical part of the service. At the beginning of the 19th. century the Psalms were still sung without any pointing, the first pointed Psalter being published by Robert Janes, who was Organist of Ely in 1837. The old Cathedral Psalter issued in 1875 almost stabilised the rendering for many years. The weakness of the old Psalters is in regaining strict tempo after the recitation, irrespective of the value of words or syllables. The Chant should be of secondary importance, the value of the words should come first. In the discussion which followed, among the points made were:-

- (i) That it is possible to knock common-sense into the use of the old C.P. but there is great difficulty in knocking out the accent.
- (ii) The desirability of providing pointed Psalters for the congregation, and also of congregational practices.
- (iii) The importance of training the young first.

A suggestion was made that the congregation should keep quiet during the Psalms or, if they wish to take part, the Psalms should be sung in Unison, and preferably to Plainsong. To this counter-suggestions were made as to whether we have any right to deprive the congregation of their wish to sing, and why should the Choir monopolise the Praise of God? The function of the Choir in the ordinary Parish Church being to lead the singing of the congregation. It was felt that the time was not yet ripe for any attempt at uniformity of pointing, and the result of the discussion was summed up as follows :-
"THAT THE CONGREGATION CAN SING THE PSALMS, BUT THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN THIS MATTER".

The Second proposition was :-

"THAT THIS HOUSE CONSIDERS THAT THE CATHEDRAL SERVICE IS AN INTERESTING AND HISTORIC SURVIVAL, BUT OF NO PRACTICAL USE".

Following the changes made by Henry VIII and the publication of the English Bible, the First and Second Prayer Books of Edward VI brought the language of the English into the daily Services. There was a check during the Marian persecutions, but the Accession of Elizabeth saw great developments - choirs flourished, and the great age of Contrapuntal Music began.

The music of the Services received further impetus in the time of Archbishop Laud, and after the Commonwealth from the revival under Charles II. A point of great interest to me is :- What music should be used in the new Cathedrals ? Should we follow the lines of the older Cathedrals, or should we say that the Cathedral type of service has no practical value ? Points from the discussion included :-

- (i) That we should deplore the passing of the Cathedral Service, which has been a source of inspiration for many generations.
- (ii) That although we may desire the continuance of this type of Service, many do not care, and the financial difficulties of the authorities militate against it.
- (iii) That the new Cathedrals should continue on the lines of the old, but should not attempt to do too much with the slender resources to hand.
- (iv) Is the standard of Cathedral Music produced during the past 20 years up to the standard of secular music in England ? It was felt that this was, in part, due to the poor inducements offered failing as a rule to secure musicians of the highest standard, but that every effort should be made for the continuance of this great tradition.

TALK by MR. G. A. WINTERTON, B.A., Headmaster of
KATESGROVE SECONDARY BOY'S SCHOOL, READING at the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held 22nd. February, 1947.

"MUSIC AND EDUCATION".

From early times the cult of music received the attention of all learned men. The Greeks, who included its study in their Gymnasium making it, as we might now say - "a compulsory subject". The Romans also made a lasting contribution to the study of music and if we follow its varying fortunes through Feudalism the Renaissance and the Reformation; trace its hazardous infiltrations through the Church to the theatre and the tavern and back again, we find that all the time the process of education through music has been going on steadily, & that music is a potent force in the development of the human character.

When we turn to the present state of affairs here in our land, a very casual inspection might lead us to the belief that this vast process has suddenly suffered a severe set-back. The jazz-age, the inordinate demand for any light music, the cheap American musical and the broadcasting jazz-bands and also the phenomenal sale of records and sheet-music - does not all that seem to merit the 19th. century Continental crack that "England is not a race of musicians"?

A more reasoned enquiry soon puts the scene in the proper perspective, and we can very clearly accumulate an overwhelming body of evidence that the direct contrary is the truth. Light music, dance music, jingles, catches, fol-lols, and boop-a-doops have been ever with us, for human beings change very little from age to age. Many of our top-class instrumentalists in their moments of leisure delight to indulge in a "spot of jazz" or a "jam session", much the same as Brahms or Schubert kept themselves in funds by playing dance music. The sole difference is that whereas in the past all this music was the privilege of the few, today all can take a share.

Now, when we turn to more serious music, do we in comparison find either a falling off in popularity, or a proportionate increase ? The answer is incontestable. Using the same standards as we used to measure lighter music we discover enormous sales of music and records, demands for separate broadcast programmes, concerts by the hundreds in all provincial towns, cinemas drawing millions a week to listen to Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikowsky and Grieg, and our foremost composers - Walton, Bliss, Bax and Britten - writing film music. Such is the spread of good solid serious music. Some one has learned to appreciate it, which implies that someone else has educated - and once again I imply the true meaning of educate - the bringing out of our better selves.

Not a race of musicians indeed ! This typical piece of Continental conceit collapses ignominiously before the scornful shades of Byrd, Gibbons, Purcell Elgar, Delius and the more solid forms of the outstandingly brilliant 20th. century British School. What of the future ? No one will deny that, in spite of progress made, much remains to be done. The answer lies in what we expect and hope for. Do we want a race of microtonalists, atonalists and bitonalists, intent on the technical wonders of music, or a set of musical prigs - the intellectual snobs of music; or a nation of specialists ? The answer is - No ! In the schools, in the churches, the cinema, the wireless, the concert hall, the factory, the canteen - everywhere, this opportunity for propagating worth-while music exists. There are thousands of obstacles, but it can be done. It will not be done by deprecating light or frivolous music. Many people have been "converted" by a good approach through that medium as Dobson & Young have shewn - and many more will be. That type of music has its right and proper place and function. Our job is to see that it does not exceed its bounds.

SERMON preached at the PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE
on October 18th.1947 by the REV. A.J.TAYLOR.

I am glad to have this opportunity first of offering a welcome on behalf of this Church to the Berkshire Organists Association; secondly to express my gratitude and appreciation to your President who for nineteen years has served us so splendidly in the service of praise; and thirdly to say something in particular of the relation of Music and Worship, and the part the Organists can play in the work of the Church today. My relations with organists during the past thirty years have been among the happiest associations of my Ministry.

Partly that may be because I have always recognised my own limitations in this matter, and partly it may be because I have always regarded the organist as a partner and not a rival in the services of the Sanctuary. Rivalries do occur between the Pulpit and the Organ, and when there is discord here, there can hardly be harmony in the general life and work of the Church. In fact I think the Minister and the Organist have it within their powers above all others to make or mar a service, and maintain the high spiritual value of worship.

But where shall we place the Organist ? Sometimes he seems to dwell in a kind of "no-mans land". We have Ministries which we know, we have Church Officers, Deacons and members. Yet we allow the organist as an organist to hover in some region of religious domain beyond our Ecclesiastical frontiers. Too often we seem to say - "The Minister we know, the Officers we know, but who are you ?

That, of course, is wrong. From earliest times Music has been an essential part of Worship. One of our own writers for instance - Dr. Bernard Manning - maintained that the contribution of the Free Churches to the understanding of Christianity was not only in an enlarged conception of Freedom but in Fervency, and he held that Fervency was a specific contribution from Nonconformity, expressed in the hymns and music of the Wesleys. It is significant, however, that every revival of religion has been accompanied by singing.

It is agreed that Christianity has set its faith to music, in fact a Creed that cannot be sung is hardly worth bothering about.

What then are the specific functions of the Organist ? How must he view his work, as Sunday by Sunday he takes his place ? May I say that there are three things which I think the Organist can do, which belong specifically to him and which no other can do so well. First he can prepare the Congregation for the worship to follow by creating the appropriate atmosphere of praise and prayer. Introit, Interludes and Voluntaries can be so chosen that they fit into the pattern of worship. It is within his power to provide that environment wherein the more spiritual exercise becomes natural, spontaneous and real. Music can bring an increased sensitiveness and an access of power.

The second may be, perhaps, a little more controversial, but I suggest that it is the function of the Organist to afford an opportunity to the congregation to express their emotion in worship through the singing of the hymns.

Let the people sing ! We who have the responsibility for the choice of hymns and the selection of tunes should always remember that it is not our personal tastes that should predominate. I know they cannot altogether be avoided.

Yet there is one thing more our Organists can do. An Organist can improve our taste and elevate our standards in the appreciation of music. It is a painful process I admit, but no Organist who values his office will be satisfied with a lower standard when a higher is possible. "Praise God with the Organ" - and God be thanked for the Organists who take their Ministry as a Divine appointment. (Abridged).

DEPUTIES.

The following have signified their willingness, as members of the Association, to act as Deputies, and applications should be made direct to them :-

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Miss E. Alder, | 51, Grange Avenue, Reading. | Any C.of E. Service. |
| Miss R. E.Monger, | 99, Wokingham Road, Reading. (Phone 61818 or 4110) | " " " |
| Mr. A. E.Rivers, | 17, St.Bartholomew's Rd.Reading." | " " |
| Mrs. K. F.Shorter, | 56, Northumberland Ave, Reading. | Free Church or simple Anglican.(Mat. or Ev.) |
| Mr. F. G.Spriggs, | 51, Windermere Road, Reading. (Phone 81909 business hours). | Any C.of E. or Nonconformist. |
| Mr. G. A.Winterton, B.A., | 10, Upavon Drive, Reading. (Phone 3107 School hours) | " " |
| Mr.R.A.C. Whitehouse, | 112, Basingstoke Rd., Reading. | Any C.of E. Service. (Available after Feb.) |

BRANCH MEETINGS - 1947.

February 22nd. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the Galleon Cafe, Reading. Mr.W.H.Rowe, A.R.C.O., was elected President, and Rule 6 was amended to read - "that the President shall take office immediately". Mr.A.H.Lusty, A.R.C.O.,L.T.C.L., was elected as Secretary and vacancies on the Council were filled by Mr.F.G.Spriggs and Mr.R.Brewer. A talk was given by Mr.G.A.Winterton, B.A., on "Music and Education".

March 19th. MUSICAL EVENING at ST. GILES CHURCH, READING.

Vocalist : Joyce Ferguson. Organ: Miss F.Hale, LRAM.,ATCL.
Pianoforte : Miss Jean Godfrey, Mr.P.R.Scrivener, FRCO.,FTCL.
Miss D.Griffin,LRAM.,ARCM.

Programme :-

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Organ solo | - Concerto in G. (1st.movement) | - Stanley. |
| Pianoforte solo | - Sonata in C. | - Mozart. |
| Aria | - "Let the bright Seraphim" | - Handel. |
| Pianoforte & Organ | - Concerto No.4 in G. | - Beethoven. |

April 20th. ANNUAL HALF-DAY CONFERENCE at St.Mary's Church, Reading.

Talk by Mr.Peter Goodman, FRCO(CHM), ARCM., Organist of Guildford Cathedral on :-

- (a) Can the congregation sing the Psalms ?
- (b) The Cathedral Service - is it of any practical use or merely an interesting historical survival ?

followed by a discussion, and tea arranged by the Ladies Committee.

Organ recital in St. Mary's Church by Mr. Peter Goodman :-

Programme :-

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| Prelude & Fugue in E minor. (The Wedge) | - | Bach. |
| Chaconne. (King Arthur) | - | Purcell. |
| Trio Sonata No.1 | - | Bach. |
| Prelude on a French Church Melody | - | Clifford Harker. |
| Three Sketches | - | Schumann. |
| Fidelius | - | Whitlock. |
| Scherzo | - | Gigout. |
| An Easter Alleluya | - | Gordon Slater. |

June 7th. COMBINED MEETING WITH LONDON ASSOCIATION. Visit was made to

Henry Willis & Sons,Ltd., Rotunda Works, S.E. Tea and visit to St. Dunstons-in-the-West, Fleet Street. Demonstration of rebuilt organ and short recital by Mr.H.Gabb, sub-Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Programme :-

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Giant Fugue | - | Bach. |
| Prelude (Hassan) | - | Delius. |
| Two Intermezzi | - | Schreider. |
| Fantasie in E flat | - | Saint Saens. |

June 21st. OUTING TO WINDSOR to attend the Festival of Church Music in St. Georges Chapel, Windsor. Motets and Anthems by the Choir.

October 18th. PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE & RECEPTION at Caversham Free Church and West Memorial Institute. Address by the Rev.A.J.Taylor.

Anthem :- "In my Father's House" - J.Varley Roberts.
Concluding Voluntary :- "Grand Choer" - Dubois.

November 29th. CHORAL & INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL at St. Giles Church, Reading.

Organ - Mr.P.R.Scrivener, FRCO, FTCL.
Miss F. Hale, LRAM., ATCL.
Pianoforte - Miss D. Griffin, LRAM., ARCM.
and St. Giles Church Choir.

Programme :-

Pianoforte & Organ - Concerto in D. - Mozart.
Cantata - "Blessed are they who watch" - Hugh Blair.
Organ solo - Prelude & Fugue in F minor. - Bach.
Pianoforte & Organ - Toccata Rondo - Scrivener.

December 6th. CHORAL & ORGAN RECITAL at Christ Church, Reading.

The Reading Lady Singers (Conductor - Mr.A.H.Lusty, ARCO., LTCL)
Organ - Mr. J. Eric Few, ARCO., ATCL.

Programme :-

Organ. - Prelude & Fugue in F minor - Bach.
Send out Thy light - Gounod.
The Singers. - Lift thine eyes unto the hills } - Mendelssohn.
He watching over Israel. }
Organ. - Fantasie in A. - Cesar Franck.
The Singers. - As torrents in summer(King Olaf) - Elgar.
- The Lord is my Shepherd. - Schubert.
O lovely peace. - Handel.
Organ. Soliloquy - W.K.Stanton.
- "Big Ben" - P.J.M.Plum.
Pastel in F sharp (Op.92) - Karg Elert.
The Singers. - How beautiful are the feet. - Handel.
- Lord, Who hast made us for Thine own - Gustav Holst.
Organ. - Toccata. - W.G.Alcock.

THE ORGANS OF ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, READING.

The organ which was erected in the year 1741 had several predecessors as the early account books of the Parish shew. In 1505 "iijd was paid for whitledr for the belys of the organs", and in 1506 it was removed from the rood loft. A new instrument was built by Robert Barkby in 1510. The original price was £.4. but further payments during the next 3 years brought the total to over £.12. The instrument was unsatisfactory and in 1520 the whole of the pipe-work was renewed by Segmond at a cost of £6.1.8d. and an additional stop added in the following year. Further trouble apparently ensued and in 1524 the organ was put into a proper state of repair by "ower Lady Masse priest" Richard Baynton who had already done work at Henley and Magdalen College, Oxford.

In 1524-5 another organ - probably quite a small one - was bought, and in 1533 the "great organs" were sold to "the freres in Oxford".

The "lytell organs in St. John's Chauncell" were taken down in 1578, the pipes being sold as lead and the wood-work used to make two higher seats for "Mr. Major and his brethren". From this time until 1741 there was no organ.

The present organ was then erected by the elder John Byfield at a cost of £.400. This organ which was in the West Gallery had 11 stops on the Great, 4 on the Choir, and 4 on the Swell. The Great & Choir manuals were from GG (Short) to D, and the Swell from Middle C to D.

Mr. A. Gern made alterations to the organ in 1882, and in 1889 it was removed by him to it's present position on the screen over the entrance to St. John's Chapel. The old oak case with it's gilded pipes was placed facing down the North Aisle, and a detached console placed on the floor of the Chapel behind the Choir Stalls, the stops being arranged in terrace form.

The old black keys with the ivory sharps inlaid with ebony were placed in a glass case at the entrance to the Chapel.

In 1900 the organ was renovated by Messrs. Hele & Co., and in 1903 considerable alterations were made by them. The instrument has remained in the hands of this firm and was recently overhauled by them after the Church had been damaged by enemy action.

The specification comprises 10 stops each on the Great and Swell organs, and 4 stops each on the Choir and Pedal organs.

John Alcock, afterwards Mus.D., and Organist of Lichfield Cathedral was organist from 1742 - 1750, and Richard Binfield and his daughter Hannah covered 76 years (1804 - 1880) between them.

Dr.A.C.P.Embling, F.R.C.O., has been organist of this Church and also Borough Organist since 1907.

FUTURE EVENTS.

Please see the Syllabus which has been circulated to all members.

The following will take part in the Debate to be held on 20th.March, 1948 :-

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Revd. Dr. R. V. Sellers, | Mr. W. E. Masser, F.R.C.O. |
| The Revd. Dr. A. R. Vine, | Mr. A. Barkus, F.R.C.O. |

NEWBURY NOTES.

Some people may wonder why I am writing the Newbury Notes ? I will try to explain. For some time I have thought that I would like to know the Newbury members better and to see how they do things over there.

The opportunity came when I heard that they were holding their Annual Meeting on December 9th. Accordingly I journeyed forth in a Thames Valley bus and was cordially welcomed at the other end by our worthy friend - Mr. P. J. Scruton, in whose drawing-room the meeting was held. It is by no means the first time that this comfortable room has been made available for meetings, and the Newbury Branch owes a great deal to Mr. Scruton's hospitality, generosity and enthusiasm. To make our comfort more complete Mrs. Scruton miraculously produced refreshments which Mr. Strachey - but we won't tell him!

Not all the members were present, but Newbury has passed through a very difficult period. It was hard hit by the war; all honour to the faithful few who kept the ship afloat. The transition period following the war has not been without its difficulties. For one thing, the Newbury area is a scattered one, and for some transport is a real problem. No, things have not been easy and there has been much to dishearten those who have been trying to carry on.

The success of any undertaking depends upon its members. At Newbury there are about a score, and I gained the definite impression that there are great possibilities. Our friends should not feel discouraged if attendances at their meetings are sometimes small. The gatherings can still be made well worth while.

The Branch has had no Chairman since Mr. Hutchings left the district. It was decided to leave this office open for the present, but Mr. Griffin consented to remain Vice-Chairman. Mr. Scruton definitely felt unable to continue the duties of Secretary, although still willing to advise and support the Association as before. Mr. Fraser (of Basingstoke) was elected Secretary. He is young, full of energy and enthusiastic. Mr. Taylor was re-elected the Treasurer; his services and counsel are highly valued.

One member said at the meeting - "What we want is a revival !" Well, the potentialities are there, and it is up to the members themselves to rally around the Officers and to bring it about. Details of meetings which are being arranged will be announced later.

I believe the Newbury Organists are highly skilled in the art of playing upon their diapasons and flutes, but are not so good at blowing their own trumpets ! So I gladly accepted their invitation to write these few impressions of my visit. That is why these notes are contributed by -

THE PRESIDENT.

DEPUTY.

The following member is available for deputy work in the Basingstoke, Newbury, or Reading districts :-

Mr. D. Fraser, 123, Brook Street, Basingstoke. - Anglican
Services.

At the first meeting of the Magazine Committee, Mr. J. Eric Few suggested that maybe a page in lighter vein could be included and gave an illustration which, the committee immediately suggested should be included - but let him go on :-

In 1942, whilst at Gibraltar, 3 performances of "The Messiah" were ventured, the men of the Cathedral Choir being augmented by WRENS & Nurses. From 26 of these, 2 had sung it, 5 knew it existed, 13 thought they had heard of it - the remainder didn't know what it was ! After much labour they were knocked into shape and never have I heard such thrilling performances. The building was filled to overflowing, people sitting on the organ stool and even the foot-rest beneath. A trumpeter from the King's Regt. promised to play the trumpet solo but failed to appear for the first performance, the solo being played on the organ by myself and bringing forth, as usual, the astounding number of remarks "how beautifully the trumpeter played". The second performance to be given after Evensong on Sunday was "the" show as far as we were concerned as it was to be broadcast and the Governor and other local notabilities were attending. Enquiries were made regarding the absent trumpeter, but our conductor nearly fainted when he learned that after all our practice with him, during which time it was found we had carefully written out his part, yet forgotten to transpose same (what a discord at the first playing ?) he was resting his weary bones in the Garrison prison for some offence or other. Urgent contact with Higher Authority was favourable - Sunday arrived, and with crowd scenes greater than before (hundreds stood outside the huge doors) a truly great occasion proceeded. Only a few pages to go to the trumpet solo and still no sign of a trumpeter - but hark ! - a noise is heard in the Vestry, a soldier appears securely handcuffed to a Military Policeman. Keys rattle, chain jingles, a trumpet is handed to him, he enters, plays as perfect a trumpet solo as one could wish for, rises immediately after, returning to the Vestry, more noise of key and chain, is secured again and departs to the cold grey prison - whilst we continue to a glorious conclusion of "The Messiah". The organ console was admirably situated to see this enacted, and it will for ever be one of the high spots of my memories, as I am certain that never before, or maybe never again, will the solo be played by a "captive" trumpeter.

Another weird happening took place when my Unit was in Belgium. We were close to the Ardennes battle of Xmas 1944, being situated in a badly damaged school. The Commanding Officer thought it would be fine to sing some carols, so a Padre was sent for, and the majority of the Unit attended. With V.1's & V.2's falling like leaves in autumn the service was due to commence - but no organ. A search party went out, and with the service already started returned, very proudly carrying a rather battered looking harmonium. A moments delay, then the first carol was announced, myself playing. Such a shock was waiting, because as the bellows were filled a veritable shower of black dust flew out, temporarily blinding me and continuing at every note which was depressed. The Padre has a fit of sneezing (small wonder!) - chaos reigned, never has any miner looked blacker than I did, but even so we continued the sincerest carol singing I have ever heard. Afterwards we learned that the search party had found the organ protruding from a huge charcoal dump the Germans had left. And the carol we sang when the biggest cloud emitted - "Good King Wencelas looked out". Lucky for him he didn't look out that day I'm thinking ! Anyhow - have you ever had any experience of charcoal dust ?

LOCAL POOL.

What organist is there, with any pride in his calling, who has not written a chant or hymn-tune of his own, or something equally modest, that will perhaps never be known outside his own Church? And who can tell what beauty and value may not lie hidden in some of this uncirculated music?

It cannot all appear in print but, formed into a common pool to which organists could contribute and have access, it would stimulate local standards and encourage a tradition which might well be a credit to the district.

Such a collection is being started in Reading, and all members who can contribute original chants, hymn-tunes, settings, carols, anthems, and the like, are asked to contact MR.F.G.SPRIGGS, 15, WHITLEY PARK LANE, READING, (Phone - 81909)

Originals will be copied out and returned promptly; autographed copies even more welcome; copyrights scrupulously respected.

All (legible) efforts - good and indifferent - invited; the cream will find its own level!

APPOINTMENTS.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Mr. R.J.M. Brind, | - St. Peter's Church, Caversham. |
| Mr. E. G. Browne, | - St. Mary's Church, Streatley. |
| Mr. P. G. Cusdin, | - St. Mary's Church, Eversley. |
| Mr. Leslie Pratt, L.T.C.L., | - St. Peters Church, Earley. |
| Mr. W. H. Rowe, A.R.C.O., | - St. Andrew's Church, Caversham. |
| Mr. J. H. Simpson | - St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Reading. |
| Mr. A. L. Warman, A.R.C.O., | - St. Mary's Church, Shinfield. |

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

1948 DIARY. Kindly open your diary at June 12th. & enter the following :-

VISIT TO CLEVELAND LODGE, DORKING. (Lady Jeans).

The name of Lady Jeans needs no introduction and we are going to have a very happy time there!